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## OPEN LETTERS.

IN YOUR June number and in a Bulletin of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. A. P. Anderson quotes me as identifying the Tilletia found on rice in South Carolina with Tilletia corona Scrib. The resemblance is certainly striking, but in writing Dr. Anderson I did not intend to express a final opinion in the matter. I had not at that time seen a description of the Japanese Tilletia horrida Tak. It now seems to me that the differences in the manner of affecting the host plant, the spore mass being included by the glumes in T. horrida and conspicuously exserted in T. corona, should be considered of sufficient weight to separate the species tentatively, until such time as their life histories can be carefully studied. Therefore I should prefer to call the South Carolina specimens Tilletia horrida Tak. In my opinion much more confusion is occasioned by the hasty grouping of many forms under one common name than by tentatively recognizing too many forms as independent species.

The name *T. corona* Scrib. seems to be antedated by Arthur's *Ustilago rotundata* (Prel. List Iowa Uredinæ, Nov. 1884), described from Iowa specimens on *Panicum irrigatum*. This species has recently been issued as *no.* 543 of *Economic Fungi*, under the name *Tilletia rotundata* (Arth.) Ell. & Ev.—F. S. EARLE, *Auburn*, *Ala*.

I 38 [AUGUST